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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

USA Patent Application

Reinhold Berberich

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Respectfully submitted herewith is a copy of the German Patent Office Search Report (3 pages) from the parallel German application 199 41 346.0 of which the present application claims priority, together with copies of its 9 cited references.

In the German Patent Office Search Report all the references listed with a Y mean that these references together with other reference(s) of this category place the inventive level in question with respect to the listed claims. The reference listed with an A means that this reference merely defines the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance to the listed claims.

In the German Patent Office Search Report the words "Kategorie" means category, "Ermittelte Druckschriften/Erläuterungen" and the like mean transmitted publications/explanations, "Betrifft Anspruch" means concerning claim, "Sp." means column, "Z." means

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line, "Fig." means Figure(s) and "ganze Schrift" means the entire document. Since this translation now points out in English the relevant portions of the citations listed in the German Patent Office Search Report, and the two UK patent applications are in the English language, no further concise explanation is required under 1138 OG 38.

Also submitted herewith is PCT publication, namely WO 92/18732, disclosed and discussed on page 1 of the specification.

Two PTO-1449 forms are presented to list all 10 references, all of which are enclosed herewith. Translations of these German language documents are not available to attorney for applicants.

This submission meets the requirements of 37 CFR §1.97 and 1.98 and MPEP 609.



Respectfully submitted,

Reinhold Beiberich

by:

MARTIN A. FARBER
Attorney for Applicants
Registered Representative
Registration No. 22,3345

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR SECTION 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement, German Patent Office Search Report, 2 PTO-1449 forms and 10 references are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 14, 2001

Dated: February 14, 2001

866 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
(212) 758-2878

Martin A. Farber